

## Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel

12 March 2013

### Allowances for Independent Members

#### Recommendation

That the Panel considers whether or not it wishes to recommend to the Constituent Authorities that they provide funding for the payment of an allowance to the two independent members on the Panel

#### 1.0 Key Issues

- 1.1 The Government has provided funding for the support of Police and Crime Panels for the financial year 2012/13. Local authorities may only reclaim monies for the period from 1 October 2012 to 31 March 2013. The funding available for this period is £32,170. The breakdown is calculated on the basis of a flat rate of £26,650 towards administration costs and £5,520 member expenses (up to £460 per member x 12). These monies are not provided as a lump sum, the host authority has to reclaim the expenditure based on actual costs.
- 1.2 The Home Office has made it clear that the government funding cannot be used to pay for allowances for members. Given the financial challenges facing every authority the Constituent Authorities decided to 'live within the budget provided by the government' and not to provide any additional funding. The Panel arrangements therefore only include the recoupment of expenses.
- 1.3 As the Home Office funding does not cover allowances, then any payment of allowances would be an issue for the Constituent Authorities to agree, rather than the Panel.
- 1.5 No confirmation has yet been received from the Home Office regarding funding for 2013/14 onwards although it is expected to be similar to 2013/14. There will be a proper review of the funding for panels in 2013/14 but exactly what this will involve at this point is unclear.

#### 2.0 Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

None

#### 3.0 Background papers

None

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